

March 29, 1976

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I think the body is being asked to be unfair to Senator Rasmussen and the concerns that he has in his part of the country. Now I tried to introduce a bill that related to the training of deputies and it was based on serious problems in Douglas County and I was told by various members of the body that because Douglas County has a problem, and very severe, it should not be imposed on counties throughout the state, the solution or attempted solution to that problem. Now Senator Goodrich is talking about the crime wave that exists in Douglas County and the problem with careless shopkeepers and storekeepers and others cashing checks for people to whom the checks do not belong or cashing checks for people who allege to be somebody that they are not. So because they have foolish and careless shopkeepers in Omaha and other parts of Douglas County, Senator Goodrich is saying that out in Senator Stull's county, where the biggest problem is gophers digging under the ground, they ought to raise the costs of license, put pictures on everybody with the stated purpose that he may have a lot of uncaught felons driving automobiles in Nebraska. The Sheriffs Department want to be able to go through all of the records of the Motor Vehicles Departments and branches and check these photographs of upstanding citizens in his county to see if they are uncollected felons. Now how can anything be more insulting than that. Every citizen in this state is to have a license plate, a driver's license with a color photograph because he or she is suspected of being a felon which has not been caught yet. Senator Goodrich has not one time, not one time, Senator Goodrich, come in here with statistics that show us that Indiana has a lower crime rate than Nebraska because they have color pictures on the photograph. Now how in the world is this going to be considered a tool of law enforcement when he cannot prove that it reduces the amount of crime. Can Senator Goodrich prove that they have fewer warrants for felons who have not been captured by the law in Indiana and the other states that don't have this provision, Senator Goodrich? I dare say that he cannot. It is a ridiculous argument that Senator Goodrich has been reduced to giving to this body. I will tell you what is behind this bill. There are two photo processing companies who do all of this work throughout the country and they have sold a bill of goods to practically all the other states minus eleven. Now in some of the states where this kind of legislation has been pushed through and sold through to the Legislature, and I am not going to say that any money was spent in Nebraska on this bill like it was on the doctor's bill. Although as Senator Goodrich was scooting down the aisle on that frantic Thursday night, he said to Senator Frank Lewis, and I heard him say it, don't worry about this one, Frank. It has been greased. Now whatever that means, I am not going to say. I am just telling you what Senator Goodrich said as he sped down the